

CLAIMS**We claim:**

1. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:
- 5 receiving a notification to provide to a user;
- determining a priority to assign the notice;
- deciding a notification type; and
- rendering the notification in accordance with the priority and the notification type.
- 10 2. The computer-readable medium of claim 1 having further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of determining a notification medium to render the notification.
- 15 3. The computer-readable medium of claim 1 having further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of determining an area on a display to render the notification.
4. The computer-readable medium of claim 1 wherein the step of receiving the notification comprises the steps of:
- 20 receiving a property of the notification; and
- receiving a notification to be sent to the user.

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5. The computer-readable medium of claim 1 wherein the step of receiving the notification comprises the step of receiving an XML-based notification, the XML-based notification comprising a notification classification tag and a notification type tag.

5 6. The computer-readable medium of claim 1 wherein the step of deciding a notification type comprises the step of selecting one of a display notification and an audio notification.

7. The computer-readable medium of claim 6 wherein the step of selecting the display notification comprises selecting one of an alpha-blended display and a transient display.

8. The computer-readable medium of claim 6 wherein the step of selecting the display notification comprises selecting one of an alpha-blended display, a transient display, a transient alpha-blended display, an animated display, and a normal display.

9. The computer-readable medium of claim 6 wherein the step of selecting the one of a display notification and an audio notification comprises the step of selecting one of one of a display notification and an audio notification and a pager notification.

10. The computer-readable medium of claim 1 having further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of queuing the notification.

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11. The computer-readable medium of claim 10 wherein the step of queuing the notification comprises the step of queuing the notification in a queue, the queue arranged according to the priority of the notification.

5 12. The computer-readable medium of claim 10 wherein the step of queuing the notification further comprises the step of flushing a queue of prior notifications.

13. The computer-readable medium of claim 1 wherein the step of determining the priority to assign the notification comprises the step of determining a number of times the
10 user is provided notification.

14. The computer-readable medium of claim 1 having further computer-executable instructions for performing the steps of:

determining a notification classification of the notification;

15 checking a user preference list to see if the notification classification is listed in a list of selected classifications selected by the user to indicate which notification classifications the user wants to receive; and

wherein the step of rendering the notification comprises the step of rendering the notification if the notification classification is listed in the list of selected classifications.

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15. A method of displaying a notification comprising the steps of:

determining a notification classification; and

rendering the notification in accordance with the notification classification.

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16. The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of determining a notification medium and wherein the step of rendering the notification in accordance with the notification classification comprises the step of rendering the notification in the notification medium in accordance with the notification classification.

17. The method of claim 15 wherein the step of rendering the notification in accordance with the notification classification further comprises the step of rendering the notification in accordance with a user preference.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the user preference comprises a classification enable, a positional location, and a classification size, the positional location being a location on a display where the notification is to be displayed, the classification size being an area in a display area where the notification is to be displayed, the step of rendering the notification in accordance with a user preference comprises the steps of:

determining if the classification enable is enabled for the notification classification; and

if the classification enable is enabled for the notification classification, rendering the notification at the positional location and at a size equal to the classification size.

19. The method of claim 15 wherein the step of selecting a notification classification comprises the step of selecting one of a contact classification and an audio classification.

21. The method of claim 19 wherein if the step of selecting one of the contact classification and the audio classification comprises the step of selecting the audio classification, the step of rendering the notification further comprises the step of sending a pre-notification notification prior to performing the step of rendering the notification.

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24. The method of claim 23 wherein the step of selecting the rendering type comprises selecting one of an alpha blending display and a transparent display.

5 26. The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of updating a history of notifications.

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flushing old items from the history, the old items determined from the user preference.

28. The method of claim 27 further comprising the step of displaying items in the history in accordance with the user preference.

29. The method of claim 26 further comprising the steps of:

displaying the history; and

performing at least one action if a notification in the history is selected by a user selection device.

30. The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of performing at least one action if the notification is selected by a user selection device.

31. The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of:

if the notification classification is an audio notification classification, performing at least one action if one of a keyword and a key-phrase is spoken by a user.

32. The method of claim 15 wherein the step of rendering the notification further comprises the step of rendering the notification in one of a long version and a short version.

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